

HOUSE RESOLUTION 237  
By Stanley

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Edward "Ed" McAteer of Shelby County.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this General Assembly honor the memory of those sterling public servants who devoted their lives to their community and nation; and

WHEREAS, Ed McAteer was one such exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Ed McAteer served with acumen and alacrity as a sales executive with Colgate-Palmolive, in which position he earned the respect of his colleagues and his community alike for the exemplary quality of his work; after nearly thirty years, he left the business world to become a Christian activist, having accepted Christ as his Lord and Savior at the age of fourteen; and

WHEREAS, a pioneer for faith in public policy, Ed McAteer played a leading role in birthing the Religious Right movement; he aided Jerry Falwell in founding the Moral Majority during the 1970s, played a key role in introducing evangelicals to Ronald Reagan in 1980, and remained in the forefront of the Religious Right over the years; and

WHEREAS, also a resolute supporter of the state of Israel, Mr. McAteer was featured in a *60 Minutes* segment on "Zion's Christian Soldiers" and, in 2001, was touted for the post of United States ambassador to Israel; the push for his appointment, which subsequently did not succeed, was a disappointment to many in the "Christian Coalition," including Mr. McAteer, who had stated enthusiastically, "There's no job on earth, including president of the United States, that I would like more."; and

WHEREAS, in the *60 Minutes* segment on Israel, Ed McAteer was referred to as "the Godfather of the Christian Right"; and

WHEREAS, Ed McAteer's journey is recounted in the 2004 book *The Ed McAteer Story: the Power of One* by Daniel E. Johnson and Thomas and Jonathan Lindberg; Richard Lan, president of the Southern Baptist Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, said in a statement to the Baptist Press, "Ed McAteer probably did as much as anyone to awaken the conscience of evangelical Christians and other people of faith to their obligation and responsibility to be the 'salt' and the 'light' in society that Jesus commanded us to be"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McAteer had a tremendous vision for an informed and engaged Christian community in the life of the United States, as well as Christians' responsibility to the state of Israel; if a man is known by what he loves, it should be known that Ed McAteer loved his Lord, his wife and family, his nation, and the nation of Israel; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, he organized, for the 23<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year, the "International Christian Prayer Breakfast in Honor of Israel," which was held in Memphis; the aims of the yearly event, he said, are "to honor Israel, pray for the peace of Jerusalem, and allow Bible-believing Christians to express their unconditional love for God's ancient people,"; and

WHEREAS, Ed McAteer founded a religious organization in 1979 known as the Religious Roundtable, which encompassed conservative religious leaders and individuals from political, business, and military arenas to advocate for biblical values in public policy; the group sponsored numerous large-scale public affairs conferences in various cities across the county through the years; and

WHEREAS, Ed McAteer was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his devoted wife and was the proud father of two sons, Edward II and Tim; he is also survived by six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Ed McAteer leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory

of Edward "Ed" McAteer, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family and many friends of Ed McAteer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.